

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC

COGARD

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: APRIL 9 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. FIELD REPORTS SAY COMMUNISTS TAKE TWO MORE GKR POSITIONS, NE AND SE OF PP. WHAT APPEARS TO BE COORDINATED CAMPAIGN HAS METHODICALLY FORCED FANK TO WITHDRAW FROM EIGHT POSITIONS NEAR CAPITAL IN PAST WEEK (UPI, NYT). GKR FERRIES REINFORCEMENTS AND ABOUT 20 ARMORED VEHICLES TO BEACHHEAD AT KOMPONG LUONG NEAR UNCLASSIFIED

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LOUDONG, WHERE FANK REPELLED FOUR ASSAULTS SUNDAY NIGHT. FANK GARRISON AT LONGVEK, FOUR MILES NORTH OF LOUDONG, UNDER SIEGE WITH SUPPLIES PARADROPPED DAILY BY USAF C-130S (AP, SUN).

2. FANK REPORTS 53 "KHMER ROUGE" KIA IN DAY-LONG BATTLE TWO MILES SE OF KAMPOT WHEN ENEMY TRIED TO BLOCK CANAL TO GULF OF THAILAND. KAMPOT SUFFERS FRESH-WATER SHORTAGE, TYPHOID OUTBREAKS (AP, SUN). FANK COMMAND REPORTS INCREASED PRESSURE ON KAMPOT WITH SEVERAL ATTACKS ON PERIMETER AND 16 SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS KILLED BY SHELLS (REUTER, PP).

3. LONDON TIMES REPORTS PHAM VAN DONG ARRIVAL IN SWEDEN ON OFFICIAL VISIT (NYT).

4. GVN SAYS IT WAS BLAMED BY POLISH AND HUNGARIAN ICCS DELEGATIONS IN REPORTS ON INVESTIGATION INTO SHELLING INCIDENT AT CAI LAY THAT KILLED 32 CHILDREN (AP, SUN). POLICE REPORT MAGNETIC MINE RIPPED HOLE IN BRITISH TANKER AT OIL-STORAGE DEPOT NEAR SAIGON; NO CASUALTIES, SHIP FLOATING NORMALLY (REUTER SAIGON).

5. SHARROCK (REUTER) FROM SAIGON QUOTES COMPANY SOURCES THAT MICHELIN RUBBER FACTORY IN SAIGON STOPPED PRODUCTION TO PROTEST VC KIDNAPPING OF 61 -- ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF ITS WORKERS (ALL WOMEN AND CHILDREN) -- FROM ITS PLANTATION 40 MILES NW OF SAIGON. SHARROCK COMMENTS THAT FOR MUCH OF THE WAR ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN FRENCH OWNERS AND VC HAD KEPT FACTORY SUPPLIED WITH LATEX. POLICE REPORTS ALSO SAY 30 CIVILIANS ABDUCTED FROM FIVE DELTA VILLAGES.

6. AP SAIGON REPORTS (BEFORE IT FELL) FROM HILLTOP 5 OVERLOOKING VITAL COMMUNIST SUPPLY ROAD NEAR KONTUM. CONTESTED AREA IS LESS THAN FIVE MILES LONG BUT FORMS ONE OF LAST PIECES IN NVA "MOZAIC OF SUPPLY ROADS AND TRAILS IN INDOCHINA". SAIGON OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT IF COMMUNISTS GET THIS STRETCH THEY WILL CONTROL A WEST-TO-EAST SUPPLY CORRIDOR THAT WOULD IN EFFECT BISECT SVN. ARVN SOLDIERS ON HILLTOPS SERVE HARD TOURS UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH INADEQUATE FOOD AND ENEMY "ALL AROUND." MONTAGNARD CAPT. WHO HAD TRAINED WITH US SPECIAL FORCES SAY DUTY NOW MUCH HARDER SINCE US FORCES LEFT BECAUSE THEY LACK HELICOPTER SUPPORT, GOOD FOOD AND GADGETS TO MAKE BUNKER LIFE PASSABLE. MOST OBSERVERS DO NOT SEE HIGHLANDS FLARE-UP AS PRELUDE TO LARGE-SCALE NVA OFFENSIVE, BUT SOME FEAR THAT MUTUAL INCURSIONS COULD SUCK BOTH SIDES INTO MASSIVE CONFRONTATION THAT COULD WRECK WHAT REMAINS OF "FRAGILE C-F" (CSM).

7. ZIMMERMAN (NYT) REPORTS THAT NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REPORT "EFFECT OF HERBICIDES IN SVN",

RELEASED ON FEB. 28, CAUSES REJECTION OF USE
OF DEFOLIANTS IN FIGHT AGAINST YELLOW-FEVER OUTBREAK
IN PANAMA. REPORT CITED EVIDENCE OF HUMAN ILLNESS
AND DEATH FOLLOWING DEFOLIATION.

CHINA

8. ADDRESSING MEETING OF AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DURING HK STOP ON ASIA TOUR, SEC. BUTZ PREDICTS PRC
WILL BUY 1.2 BILLION DOLS WORTH OF GRAIN FROM US THIS

FY; ADDS (WHILE PRAISING US FREE ENTERPRISE INCENTIVE
SUCCESSES) THAT BASIC FAILINGS IN CHINA'S AGRICULTURAL
SYSTEM ARE CAUSE OF SUCH LARGE GRAIN PURCHASES (JOC).
AT LATER NEWS CONFERENCE IN MANILA, BUTZ SAID, "ASIA
HAS BECOME OUR NO. 1 MARKET AND HAS SURPASSED EUROPE
FOR THE FIRST TIME" (REUTER, NYT).

9. UPI (HK) REPORTS NCNA ACCUSATION -- "LATEST
COMMENTARY IN CAMPAIGN CHINA ANALYSTS SAY,IS AIMED
AT UNDERMINING SOVIET-AMERICAN DETENTE" -- THAT SOVIET
IS PAYING ONLY "LIP SERVICE" TO DETENTE WITH US,
AND IS UNDERTAKING "UNBRIDLED ARMAMENT EXPANSION AND
WAR PREPARATIONS" AIMED AT ESTABLISHING "MILITARY
SUPERIORITY" OVER US (NYDN). AP (TOKYO) CITES NCNA
BROADCAST AS ALSO CLAIMING USSR IS EXPANDING ITS
NUCLEAR ARSENAL AND MILITARY STRENGTH IN NEW BID "TO
CONTENTEND WITH US IMPERIALISM FOR WORLD DOMINATION" (NYT).
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10. REUTER PEKING REPORTS ANOTHER INCIDENT IN
WHICH FOREIGNERS (THIS TIME 2 BRITISH STUDENTS) LATE
LAST WEEK WERE MOBBED AND SHOUTED AT BY CHINESE ANGRY
OVER THEIR PICTURE TAKING; CHINESE APPARENTLY BELIEVE
PICTURES SHOW CHINA IN POOR LIGHT. BRITONS HAD BEEN
PHOTOGRAPHING WOMEN MIXING CEMENT IN STREET; THEY
WERE ARRESTED, EVENTUALLY RELEASED AFTER FILM WAS
CONFISCATED. ENGLISH-SPEAKING PRC OFFICIAL EXPLAINED
THAT WHILE CROWD'S RESENTMENT WAS JUSTIFIED, THIS
DOES NOT MEAN CHANGE IN CHINESE BASIC POLICY OF
"FRIENDSHIP" TOWARDS FOREIGNERS (WP).

11. PRC DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN MONDAY'S UNSC VOTE
TO EXTEND UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN ME ANOTHER
6 MONTHS. PEKING'S NO. 2 MAN AT UN, CHUANG YEN,
NOTING ME QUESTION "REMAINS UNSOLVED", EXPLAINED
PRC'S NON-PARTICIPATION IN VOTE BY SAYING "SUPERPOWERS"
ARE ENGAGED IN "INCREASINGLY FIERCE CONTENTION"
IN AREA. ADDED THAT UNTIL ISRAEL WITHDRAWS FROM
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, ARABS AND PALESTINIANS "WILL
NOT STOP THEIR STRUGGLE" (AP, WP).

12. LAT'S GREENWOOD, IN RIO DE JANEIRO, OBSERVING THAT CHINA POLICY IS ONE OF MOST OBVIOUS AREAS OF US-BRAZIL AGREEMENT, NOTES THREE-MAN GOB COMMERCIAL MISSION LEFT RIO FRIDAY NIGHT FOR PEKING AND CANTON FAIR -- "AMID INTENSIVE SPECULATION THAT BRAZIL IS MOVING RAPIDLY TOWARD ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA" (APRIL 6).

JAPAN

13. OHIRA TOLD CABINET APRIL 9 THAT HE EXPECTS VIRTUAL CONCLUSION OF CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT WITH PEKING BY END OF WEEK, ACCORDING GOVT. SOURCES. FM REPORTEDLY SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS, BEING MADE WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT GOJ WILL MAINTAIN ITS TAIWAN ROUTES, ARE AT FINAL STAGE WITH DISCUSSION ON PROBLEMS OF AIRPORTS TO BE USED AND RIGHT TO FLY BEYOND JAPAN OR CHINA. TRANSPORT MINISTRY SOURCES SAY JAPAN WANTS FLIGHTS INTO PEKING, SHANGHAI AND KWANGCHOW UNCLASSIFIED

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AND FLIGHTS ON TO SEA AND EUROPE, WHILE PRC IS DEMANDING FLIGHTS INTO TOKYO AND OSAKA AND ON TO N. AMERICA (REUTER TOKYO).

14. OBERDORFER, IN TOKYO, REPORTS JAPANESE STEEL WORKERS WON RECORD-BREAKING WAGE INCREASES AVERAGING 26.4 PERCENT MONDAY AS COUNTRY MOVED INTO CLIMACTIC WEEK OF STRIKES AND SLOWDOWNS EXPECTED TO PARALYZE MUCH OF NATION (WP). RAIL WORKERS BEGAN WORK SLOWDOWN MONDAY AS PART OF ANNUAL SPRING CAMPAIGN FOR WAGE INCREASES (UPI NYDN, JOC). KEY PORTS WERE PARALYZED MONDAY AS LONGSHOREMEN LAUNCHED NEW STRIKES TO SUPPORT DEMANDS FOR MORE PAY AND PERKS.

15. JOC'S CULLISON, IN TOKYO, SAYS OIL CRISIS HAS BROUGHT HOME TO JAPANESE THAT THEY ARE "HAVE-NOT COUNTRY WHERE ENERGY RESOURCES ARE CONCERNED" AND THEIR BEST SOLUTION IS TO INCREASE VARIETY OF ENERGY SOURCE MATERIALS. SUCH DIVERSIFICATION, WHICH PROBABLY WILL CONSIST MAINLY OF LARGE-SCALE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER AND LNG, "CLEARLY WILL TAKE SOME TIME. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO OTHER COURSE FOR JAPAN TO FOLLOW."

THAILAND

16. NYT'S LELYVELD, IN BANGKOK, CITES MARCH 29 DEATH OF BANGKOK POST REPORTER, AMCTI CLAUDIA ROSS, FOLLOWING HER "EXPOSE" OF CHILDREN OF GOD SECT. NOTES SECT CONTINUES TO BE MENTIONED IN VIRTUALLY EVERY ARTICLE AND CONVERSATION ABOUT ROSS MURDER, EVEN THOUGH THAI POLICE HAVE INDICATED MEMBERS ARE NOT REGARDED AS SUSPECTS. ROSS WAS FRIEND OF STUDENT LEADER, SEKSAN

PRASERTKUL. NO EVIDENCE TO CONNECT GROUP TO CRIME EXCEPT VICTIM'S ARTICLE;"BUT THAT WENT SO FAR IN PORTRAYING ITS ACTIVITIES AS SINISTER AND POTENTIALLY CRIMINAL THAT THE CONNECTION IS EASILY MADE. IN PART THAT IS BECAUSE NOTHING ELSE ABOUT THE GROUP HAS BEEN PRINTED HERE; IN PART IT IS A REFLECTION OF THE UNCERTAIN

POLITICAL SITUATION IN THAILAND, WHERE CONSPIRACY THEORIES GROW SPONTANEOUSLY." FINDS CHILDREN OF UNCLASSIFIED

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GOD THEMSELVES "SEEM OBLIVIOUS" TO SPECULATION SWIRLING AROUND THEM.

LAOS

17. UPI (VIENTIANE) QUOTES AMB. WHITEHOUSE SAYING SATURDAY THAT EMMET KAY, LAST KNOWN LIVING US POW IN INDOCHINA, IS EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED WITHIN NEXT 2 MONTHS, UNDER TERMS OF LAOS ACCORD (LAT, APR. 7).

MALAYSIA

18. GOM FINANCE MINISTER TAN SIEW SIN RESIGNS FOR HEALTH REASONS. TAN, WHO IS ALSO RESIGNING AS PRES. OF MALAYSIAN CHINESE ASSN., ANNOUNCED THAT TECHNOLOGY MINISTER LEE SAN CHOON WILL BECOME ACTING PRES. (AP, WP).

BURMA

19. CSM'S SOUTHERLAND, IN RANGOON, REPORTS GUB OFFICIALS SAYING THEY HAVE LEARNED TO LIVE WITH CHINESE-SUPPORTED INSURGENCY THAT HAS DISRUPTED LIFE IN COUNTRY'S NE BORDER REGION. INSURGENCY "CLEARLY FALLS SHORT" OF POSING MORTAL THREAT TO BURMA, BUT SOME ANALYSTS SAY BCP HAS GROWN CONSIDERABLY OVER PAST YEAR. MOST DIPLOMATS CONVINCED THAT AIMS OF CHINESE ARE LIMITED AND DO NOT POSE DIRECT THREAT TO RANGOON GOVT.; GUB "GOES OUT OF ITS WAY"NOT TO STIR UP ANTI-CHINESE EMOTIONS REGARDING PRC SUPPORT FOR INSURGENTS.

PHILIPPINES

20. EX-HUK LEADER LUIS TARUC, IN SPEECH AT U. OF SAN FRANCISCO, SAYS HE IS COOPERATING WITH MARCOS' AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM IN INTEREST OF STABILITY THAT WILL END MARTIAL LAW. TARUC MAINTAINS MARCOS IS NOT DICTATOR "AT THIS POINT," BUT HE "MIGHT, HOWEVER, BE CORRUPTED BY POWER. IF MARTIAL LAW BECOMES A FULL-BLOWN DICTATORSHIP, WE'RE PREPARED FOR VIOLENCE AS A LAST RESORT" (CSM).

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COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

CHINA

21. CSM LEAD EDIT VIEWS WITH SATISFACTION DEVELOPMENTS INDICATING CHOU EN-LAI, THE PROBABLE INTENDED TARGET OF RADICAL LEFT, HAS BEEN ABLE TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE "MOVEMENT" AND IDENTIFY LIN AND RADICALS "WITH THE PRO-SOVIET INCLINATION". CITES TENG HSIAO-P'ING HEADING PRC SPECIAL GA DEL, RETURN OF HUANG CHEN, AND CHOU'S SUCCESSFUL JANUARY REORGANIZATION OF MILITARY HIGH COMMAND, AS SUPPORTING THIS THESIS. CSM WELCOMES CHINA'S RETURN TO STATUS OF INDEPENDENT AND "RESPECTABLE" WORLD POWER, ADDING THAT WORLD HAS BEEN MORE STABLE PLACE SINCE PRESIDENT REOPENED US RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

22. FROM HK, ELEGANT (LAT, 4/7) WRITES OF CHINA'S UNENDING STRUGGLE BETWEEN THOSE ON ONE SIDE VARIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS "PRAGMATISTS," "PRIVILEGED ELITE," "OLD CADRE NETWORK," EXPERTS AND ADMINISTRATORS AROUND CHOU, ETC., AND ON OTHER SIDE RADICAL EGALITARIANS WHO FIGHT TO ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF CREEPING PRIVILEGE. CITES NATIONALLY PUBLICIZED CASES OF CHUNG CHIH-MIN AND FU CHIEN, SONS OF OLD CADRES, WHO RENOUNCED BACK DOOR PRIVILEGES OBTAINED BY VIRTUE OF FAMILY "OLD CADRE" CONNECTIONS. ELEGANT SAYS THESE CASES EPITOMIZE CONTINUING "RED VS. EXPERT" STRUGGLE IN WHICH, REDUCED TO SIMPLE TERMS, CHOU'S MODERATES CONSIDER REWARDS FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT ESSENTIAL IF CHINA IS TO PROGRESS ECONOMICALLY, WHILE ROMANTIC LEFTISTS WHO SURROUND CHIANG CH'ING FIGHT AGAINST ALL FORMS OF PRIVILEGE. MAO STANDS BEHIND LATTER GROUP IN SPIRIT IF NOT INVARIABLY IN PRACTICE. ELEGANT NOTES THE STRUGGLE MANIFESTS ITSELF CURRENTLY, AMONG OTHER PLACES, IN RADICAL ATTACK AGAINST PRIVATE PLOTS WHICH PRODUCE DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGER YIELD COMPARED TO COMMUNAL LAND; AND IN FACTORIES, WHERE MANAGERS FIND EXTRA PAY FOR EXTRA, OR BETTER, WORK A USEFUL DEVICE IN MEETING PRODUCTION QUOTAS. ELEGANT CONCLUDES THAT WITH ALL EGALITARIAN GOOD WILL IN THE WORLD, EVEN "IDEALISTIC" LEADERS ULTIMATELY

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RECOGNIZE THAT SOME FORM OF ELITISM IS NECESSARY TO GET THINGS DONE.

23. FROM PEKING, JOHN BURNS WRITES OF REMARKABLE DISPLAY OF UNITY AND CAMARADERIE AT AIRPORT DEPARTURE OF SPECIAL DEL LED BY TENG HSIAO-P'ING (CSM AND CHITRIB).

CHINESE OFFICIALS MADE A POINT OF TELLING WESTERN
CORRESPONDENTS THAT TURNOUT INCLUDED EVERY POLITBURO

MEMBER THEN IN PEKING EXCEPT MAO; THIS WAS UNPRECEDENTED
FOR ANY AIRPORT CEREMONY IN RECENT YEARS. NOTING
PRESENCE OF GEN. CHEN HSI-LIEN, YAO WEN-YUAN AND
WU TEH, BURNS SAYS THEY REPRESENT THE THREE MAIN
ELEMENTS OF PRC LEADERSHIP -- VETERANS, YOUNG RADICALS,
AND MILITARY. ALL WERE RELAXED AND JOVIAL, NO SIGN
OF STRAINS EVIDENT, AND CHOU KEPT CHIANG CH'ING CLOSE
BESIDE HIM THROUGH IT ALL (EVEN SHIFTING HER BACK
TO HIM AT ONE POINT WHEN SHE TRIED TO INTERPOSE WANG
HUANG-WEN.) BURNS CONCLUDES THAT THIS EPISODE, TOGETHER
WITH PARTY'S CALL FOR CAUTION AND MODERATION IN THE
CAMPAIGN (OFFICIALS DREW CORRESPONDENTS' ATTENTION
TO ARTICLE CALLING FOR UNITY IN FRIDAY'S PEOPLES'
DAILY), IS SIGNAL THAT MILITANT PHASE OF CAMPAIGN
IS ALREADY DRAWING TO A CLOSE. N.B. - ONE INTERESTING
OMISSION FROM DEPARTURE CEREMONY REPORTS IS ANY MENTION
OF HUANG CHEN.

24. WP'S GREENWAY, IN HK, NOTES THAT NO FEWER THAN
11 POLITBURO MEMBERS AND 2 ALTERNATES WERE AT
AIRPORTS SATURDAY TO SEE TENG OFF; WHATEVER
DIFFERENCES AMONG PRC LEADERS, THIS WAS "AN
IMPRESSIVE SHOW OF UNITY" FOR TENG'S UNGA MISSION.
SUGGESTS TENG COULD HAVE BEEN EXCUSED FOR
"CERTAIN SENSE OF SATISFACTION" AS PLANE DEPARTED,
BECAUSE 7 YEARS AGO HE WAS VILIFIED AND HUMILI-
ATED BY RED GUARDS FOR BEING "NO. 2 CAPITALIST
ROADER" NEXT TO LIU SHAO-CH'U. (GREENWAY NOTES
THAT HE HAD EARLIER CRITICIZED CULTISM, AND
CONFERRED IN 1966 TO CHARGES THAT HE HAD GONE
AGAINST MAO). BUT TODAY, TENG'S REHABILITATION
"IS NOT ONLY COMPLETE -- HIS MISSION UNDERSCORES
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THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS RAPIDLY EMERGING AS
ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEN IN CHINA." SAYS
FORTUNES CHANGE RAPIDLY IN CHINESE POLITICS,
AND OF CHINA'S REHABILITATED OFFICIALS, "NONE
FELL SO FAR OR HAS BEEN AGAIN SO HIGH". SUGGESTS
THAT FACT LIU PIAO AND CHEN PO-TA LED ATTACK AGAINST
TENG MAY HAVE MADE IT EASIER FOR MAO TO FORGIVE
TENG, FOR LIN AND CHEN NOW STAND ACCUSED OF
TRYING TO OVERTHROW MAO IN 1971. ALTHOUGH
WIDELY ASSUMED THAT TENG WOULD BACK MODERATE
CAUSE AGAINST LEFTISTS IF IT CAME TO THAT, NO
ONE KNOWS WHERE HIS REAL POWER LIES OR REASONS
FOR HIS REHABILITATION -- BEYOND HIS UNDOUBTED
ABILITY. TENG IS BELIEVED TO HAVE FRIENDS IN
MILITARY, AND IF SO, "HIS FRIENDS HAVE NEED OF

HIM, FOR IN RECENT WEEKS MILITARY LEADERS HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY NAME." BUT NO ONE KNOWS REALLY WHERE TENG STANDS OR WHAT COMPROMISES BROUGHT HIM BACK TO POWER. "HE IS CLEARLY A MAN WORTH WATCHING."

25. TRAVEL WRITER RICHARD JOSEPH (GLOBE APRIL 7), ONE OF 196 PASSENGERS ON SS VEENDAM TO VISIT CANTON, STARTS SERIES OF THREE ARTICLES ON CHINA TRAVEL. STRESSES GENUINENESS AND SPONTANEITY OF CHINESE WELCOME OF VISITORS. NOTES VICE-CHAIRMAN OF CANTON REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE GAVE DINNER FOR GROUP, MAKING FREQUENT TOASTS TO INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP. NOTES ALSO ELIMINATION OF TIPPING, ABSENCE IN CANTON STREETS OF TRAGIC ASPECTS OF SO MANY OTHER ASIAN CITIES (NO BEGGARS, NO OLD PEOPLE IN RAGS, NOBODY LOAFING, PEOPLES' FACES RELAXED IN REPOSE, ALL HAPPY AND WELL-FED).

26. GLOBE'S CROCKER SNOW IN HK (APRIL 6) WRITES ON MAO SUCCESSION. VIEWS ALTERNATIVES AS BEST PERSONIFIED BY CHOU, REPRESENTING PRAGMATIC BUREAUCRATS, AND CHIANG CHING FOR RADICAL IDEOLOGUES. DISTINCTION BETWEEN THEM ISN'T AS SIMPLE AS THE LABELS; ABOUT ALL THAT CAN BE SAFELY STATED IS THAT CHOU GROUP SEES INDUSTRIALIZATION AS KEY TO CHINA'S FUTURE, AND REGARDS EXTENSIVE TRADE UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH WEST AS PERFECTLY APPROPRIATE MEANS TO THAT END. CHIANG CHING GROUP GLORIFIES ECON SELF-RELIANCE, A NOTION ONE SINOLOGIST REGARDS AS "SHORTHAND FOR XENOPHOBIA." WITH RESPECT TO HOW THESE TWO FACTIONS STAND AT THE MOMENT IN MAO'S EYES AND VIS-A-VIS EACH OTHER, SNOW CITES MOST EXPERTS AS AGREEING THAT IN ALLEGORICAL WAY OF PARTY PRESS, CHIANG CHING HAS COME IN FOR A LOT OF SPECIAL MENTION AND EVEN PRAISE IN LAST FEW MONTHS; MOST AGREE THAT SHE AND HER SHANGHAI SUPPORTERS ARE MAIN ACTIVISTS IN PRESENT TURMOIL. REPORTS CAREFUL OBSERVER AS REMARKING THAT SINCE CHIANG CHING'S STRENGTH DEPENDS ON HER STANDING WITH MAO, SHE MUST KEEP MOVING AND DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE FOR HER CAUSE WHILE MAO STILL ALIVE; CHOU IS ANXIOUS TO NEUTRALIZE RADICAL MOVEMENT AND KEEP NEW MILITANCY TOWARD WEST ON VERBAL LEVEL ONLY. SNOW OBSERVES THAT WHILE VERBAL ATTACKS AGAINST WEST AND PARTICULARLY THE US HAVE ESCALATED IN 1974, AND WHILE VISITS OF US GROUPS TO CHINA HAVE SLOWED TO TRICKLE, SINO-US TRADE IS CONTINUING AT LEAST AT RECORD LEVEL OF LAST

YEAR.

27. GLOBE'S JHABVALA (APRIL 7) CITES ADMIN OFFICIALS

ENDORING MANSFIELD PROPOSAL TO EXTEND MFN STATUS TO PRC AS IMPROVING SINO-US POLITICAL CLIMATE, THEREBY LESSENING MILITARY TENSIONS IN ASIA, AND BOOSTING TRADE. NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A MOVE IS IMPROBABLE IN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE IN CONGRESS. IF PRC IS GRANTED TRADE PRIVILEGES AND USSR IS NOT, ACTION WOULD PLACE PRC IN MORE PRESTIGIOUS POSITION VIS-A-VIS US AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, SOMETHING WHICH RUSSIANS WILL NOT TOLERATE. THUS, QUESTION WHICH US MUST ASK ITSELF IS: SHOULD ADMIN RISK DETENTE WITH USSR FOR PROSPECTS OF IMPROVING ECON AND POLITICAL TIES WITH CHINA? CITES DOS EXPERTS ANSWERING WITH FLAT "NO", ARGUING THAT WHILE IT IMPORTANT TO MEND FENCES WITH CHINA, IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH USSR THROUGH RESOLUTION OF SOME OF DEEPER DIFFERENCES IS BASIC TO US INTEREST.

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28. ELIZABETH VARADY (BOSTON H-A APRIL 6) WRITES GENERALLY FAVORABLE CRITIQUE OF "THE WHITE-HAIRED GIRL," GIVING SYNOPSIS OF "BEAUTIFULLY STAGED, EXPERTLY DANCED BALLET" THAT WILL BE SHOWN ON BOSTON TV APRIL 15. MENTIONS THAT WHEN ROXANE WITKE WAS RESEARCHING BOOK IN CHINA IN 1972, SHE LEARNED THAT CHIANG CHING ADMIRE "THE SOUND OF MUSIC," AND WANTED, MORE THAN ANYTHING, A PRINT OF IT FOR HER PERSONAL FILM LIBRARY. UPON RETURN TO US, MS. WITKE SENT FILM TO CHIANG CHING AND RECEIVED PRINT OF "THE WHITE-HAIRED GIRL" IN RETURN. VARADY SAYS MME. MAO IS AN INSOMNIAC WHO SPENDS LONG NIGHTS VIEWING FILMS OF CHARLIE CHAPLIN, GRETA GARBO, AND "THE SOUND OF MUSIC."

29. MARQUIS CHILDS (WP) REVIEWS INITIATIVES TAKEN BY US WITH PRC. NOTES THAT WITH AGREEMENT BY US IN SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE TO REMOVE ALL US FORCES AND MIL INSTALLATIONS FROM TAIWAN, IT WAS ASSUMED THAT US INTEREST IN CKS' ISLAND DOMAIN WOULD WITHER AWAY; AND WITH MCCONAUGHEY'S RETIREMENT, AMBASSADORIAL POST WOULD BE LEFT VACANT. BUT ADMIN NAMED UNGER, CAREER OFFICER WITH REPUTATION AS HARDLINER, AS NEW AMBASSADOR. THIS IS SAID TO HAVE CAUSED DEEP DISQUIET IN PEKING. WHILE "IT MAY BE UNRELATED," CHOU AT BANQUET HONORING KHMER REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS PROMISED ALL-OUT SUPPORT FOR KHMER IN "THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST US AGGRESSION," SAYING THAT REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE DO NOT BELIEVE IN "LASTING PEACE" OR A "GENERATION

OF PEACE," PHRASES NIXON REPEATEDLY USES. CHILDS CONSIDERS SPECIAL UNGA SESSION TO DEAL WITH RAW MATERIAL PRICES A TESTING GROUND OF THE STILL FRAGILE US-PRC RELATIONS.

VIETNAM

30. LAT'S ELEGANT (APRIL 8) IN SAIGON SAYS SVN'S LONG-RANGE ECON PROSPECTS MATTERS HAVE NOT YET BECOME SERIOUS. POL-MIL SITUATION IS MORE STABLE THAN FOR YEARS, BUT POTENTIAL INVESTORS UNDERSTANDABLY SHY AWAY. VN HAS POOL OF CHEAP UNCLASSIFIED

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LABOR AS WELL AS SURPLUS MANAGERIAL TALENT THAT WOULD BRING INVESTORS FLOCKING TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY. AS USUAL, THE ORDINARY S VIET, WHO WISHES ABOVE ALL THAT POLITICS WOULD SIMPLY GO AWAY, IS SUFFERING FROM EFFECTS OF POLITICS. US CONGRESS IS UNLIKELY TO PUT MUCH MORE MONEY INTO SVN, THOUGH STRONG INJECTION OF CAPITAL COULD BEGIN SURGE THAT MIGHT MAKE SVN LARGELY SELF-RELIANT WITHIN FEW YEARS. PRIVATE INVESTORS WHO WERE POISED TO MOVE COUPLE OF YEARS AGO ARE NOW MOST RELUCTANT. YET IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN A VERY FOOLHARDY MAN TO HAVE PREDICTED A YEAR AGO THE COMPARATIVE STABILITY THAT EXISTS TODAY. S VIETS HAVE EVERYTHING NEEDED FOR ECON SURGE EXCEPT CAPITAL. IF THEY HAD BEEN ABLE - OR EVEN TRIED - TO HOLD UP US FOR LARGE SUM AS PRICE OF PEACE THEY WOULD BE SITTING PRETTY TODAY. ROK'S ECON SURGE, WHICH LED TO PRESENT PROSPERITY, WAS BASED IN GOOD PART ON 4 BIL DOLS WHICH THEN PRES RHEE EXTRACTED FROM WASHINGTON FOR AGREEING TO PEACE WORKED OUT AT PANMUNJOM. SAIGON PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL HAD IT TRIED SIMILAR BLACKMAIL, BUT IT DID NOT TRY. INSTEAD, US ECON AID HAS BEEN CUT BACK RADICALLY. DOS OFFICIALS ARE SAID TO BELIEVE THAT 850 MIL DOLS APPROPRIATION FOR ECON AID TO SVN IN FY 75 IS NEEDED TO OVERCOME PRESENT BLEAK PROSPECTS AND PREVENT CRISIS, BUT UNLIKELY THAT CONGRESS WILL GO HIGHER THAN THIS YEAR'S 410.5 MIL DOLS. HARDSHIPS ARE STILL MINIMAL; REAL CRISIS ARISES FROM FRUSTRATION OF EVER-RISING EXPECTATIONS PRODUCED BY MASSIVE US PRESENCE FROM 1966-1971.

31. FROM SAIGON, LAT'S ELEGANT (APRIL 7) REVIEWS EVIDENCE OF SPLIT BETWEEN HANOI AND THE COMMUNIST SUPERPOWERS. EVIDENCE INCLUDES HANOI'S STEPPING UP ITS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, AGAINST ITS ONLY FRIENDS. DIVISION IS BECOMING SO WIDE, ONLY NVN'S UTTER DEPENDENCE ON PEKING AND MOSCOW SEEMS TO BE UNCLASSIFIED

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PREVENTING OPEN RUPTURE. REPORTS REACHING SAIGON SAY NVN IS OPENLY SNUBBING PRC AND USSR REPS IN HANOI. THE ONLY CHINESE LANGUAGE PAPER IN HANOI WAS CLOSED A MONTH AGO WITHOUT EXPLANATION, AND SINO-VIET FRIENDSHIP ASSN. WAS SUSPENDED AT THAT TIME. CHINESE RETALIATED BY NOT ATTENDING BIG TRADE UNION MEETING IN HANOI, AND PEKING AIRPORT RECEPTION FOR PHAM VAN DONG WAS "BRIEF AND UNENTHUSIASTIC." NCNA REPORT OF DONG'S STOPOVER WAS "BRUSQUE ALMOST TO THE POINT OF DISCOURTESY."

ADDS:SOME SPECIALISTS BELIEVE HANOI'S MOVE AGAINST ITS ONLY FRIENDS PRECISELY WHEN IT MOST NEEDS THEIR HELP IS BASED ON THREE MOTIVATIONS: TO EMBARRASS PEKING AND MOSCOW INTO GIVING IT GREATER AID; IT HOPES THAT USSR AND PRC CAN BE WOODED FROM THEIR FASCINATION WITH DETENTE BACK TO FULL-SCALE SUPPORT OF "INTERNATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT," WHICH, CHINA USED TO SAY, WAS "FOCUSED IN VIETNAM"; AND NATURAL TENDENCY TO VENT BITTERNESS TO RELIEVE FRUSTRATION WHEN HANOI CAN DO LITTLE CONCRETE ABOUT ITS PREDICAMENT.

32. CSM'S HARSCH DISCUSSES CASE FOR US AID TO ROK AND GVN. FINDS CASE OF KOREA, BASED ON GEOPOLITICS, EASY TO GRASP. AS PENINSULA, KOREA HAS BEEN, AND AGAIN COULD BE USED FOR INVADING CHINA FROM JAPAN OR VICE VERSA. THUS BOTH JAPAN AND CHINA HAVE VITAL INTERESTS IN ITS OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL; DIVISION OF KOREA IS SAFEST WAY HISTORY HAS YET FOUND OF MAKING IT NEUTRAL AND HAS MADE FOR MIL AND POLITICAL STABILITY IN NE ASIA. CASE IS STRONG THAT IT IS WELL WORTH 200 MIL OR SO DOLS A YEAR TO US.

ADDS:GEOPOLITICAL CASE FOR AID TO SVN IS MORE COMPLEX AND SUBTLE. US PRESENCE WAS UNSETTLING WHEN IT CONSISTED OF VAST MIL FORCE POTENTIALLY CAPABLE OF INVADING CHINA. BUT CONTINUED SUPPORT WITHOUT TROOPS HAD STABILIZING EFFECT. NEITHER PRC NOR USSR HAS DONE ANY SERIOUS AGITATING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SUCH US SUPPORT; UNCLASSIFIED

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INDIA TAKES BENIGN AND QUIETLY APPROVING VIEW.

PEKING WOULD RATHER HAVE US SUSTAIN THIEU FROM A DISTANCE THAN HAVE RUSSIANS THERE; MOSCOW WOULD RATHER HAVE SAME QUIET US PRESENCE THAN CHINESE ONE. AND INDIA PREFERS SAME

RELATIVELY NEUTRAL AMERICAN PRESENCE ON ITS EASTERN FLANK THAN EITHER SOVIET OR CHINESE. BY STEPPING DOWN TO SECONDARY ROLE IN SVN, US HAS BECOME FAVORITE OUTSIDER FOR ALL OTHERS. THIS MAKES FOR STABILITY, BUT 3 TO 4 BIL DOLS COST PER YEAR FOR THIS SEEMS HIGH. PRUDENT TARGET FOR CONGRESS WOULD SEEM TO BE A SCALING DOWN TO LOWEST LEVEL COMPATIBLE WITH SURVIVAL OF AN INDEPENDENT, NON-COMMUNIST GOVT IN SVN, BUT NOT SUDDEN CUT OR ANY TOTAL US WITHDRAWAL.

33. S-N (APRIL 8) SAYS HOUSE HAS RISEN TO "NEW HEIGHTS OF SOPHOMORIC SELF-ASSERTION" IN REJECTING REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL MIL AID TO SVN. RESULT COULD VERY WELL BE TO PLACE SURVIVAL OF COUNTRY IN IMMINENT PERIL. IN CURRENT BUDGET, DOD HAD ASKED FOR 1.6 BIL DOLS FOR SUPPORT OF SVN, WHICH CONGRESS REDUCED TO 1.126 BIL DOLS. IN REJECTING REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, ADMIN OPPONENTS ACCUSED DOD OF WILLFULLY DEFYING WILL OF CONGRESS BY SPENDING AT ORIGINAL RATE. AS ONE MEMBER PUT IT: "THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE NOT IN A MOOD TO ABANDON SOUTH VIETNAM - BUT THEY'RE IN A MOOD TO QUESTION HOW MUCH MONEY THEY SHOULD PAY." BUT, SAYS S-N, THERE IS NO RELIABLE WAY OF RECKONING HOW MUCH MONEY IT WILL TAKE TO ASSURE SVN INDEPENDENCE. AS IT TURNS OUT, ORIGINAL 1.6 BIL DOLS REQUEST WAS CONSERVATIVE. IN LETTER TO SEN. KENNEDY, HAK EXPOUNDED VIEW THAT, IN SIGNING PARIS AGREEMENT, US ASSUMED A POLITICAL AND MORAL COMMITMENT TO AID SAIGON. KENNEDY'S CHIEF COMPLAINT IS THAT ADMIN'S INTERPRETATION OF PARIS AGREEMENT "IS UNCLASSIFIED

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PERPETUATING OLD RELATIONSHIPS AND CONTINUING OLD POLICIES, AS IF NOTHING CHANGED." FACT IS THAT NOTHING MUCH AS CHANGED: SVN IS STILL UNDER HEAVY AND INCREASING MIL PRESSURE FROM NVN, WHICH HAS MASSIVELY VIOLATED AGREEMENT. IN THIS SITUATION, TO DEMAND CUT-OFF OR REDUCTION OF AID TO SVN IS UNCONSCIONABLE.

CAMBODIA

34. ARBUCKLE (S-N APRIL 8) IN PP REVIEWS MIL SETBACKS SUFERED BY COMMUNISTS DURING CURRENT DRY SEASON, REPORTS LONG BORET AND TOP DIPLOMATS SEE POSSIBILITY OF MOVE TOWARD POLITICAL SOLUTION AFTER END OF DRY SEASON - IN MAY. IN INTERVIEW, LONG BORET SAID "THE

MILITARY SITUATION IS TO OUR ADVANTAGE. THE ENEMY HAVE RETREATED. DURING THE FIRST STEP OF THEIR OFFENSIVE, WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DESTROYING MOST OF THE BEST ELEMENTS OF THE ENEMY TROOPS." LONG BORET ADDED GKR IS CONTINUING TO OFFER ITS 6-POINT PEACE PLAN, BUT "SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO ANSWER...WE ARE READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH ANYBODY, ANYWHERE." THE TOUR OF NEIGHBORING ASIAN COUNTRIES BY FONMIN KEUKY LIM IS ATTEMPT TO PUT OUT PEACE FEELERS. CITES ENDERS, IN "UNCHARACTERISTIC END-OF-TOUR, ON-THE-RECORD PRESS CONFERENCE FOR AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS", AS AGREEING WITH LONG BORET'S ASSESSMENT OF THE POSSIBILITY OF GKR'S IMPROVED MILITARY SITUATION BRINGING ABOUT A SITUATION WHERE COMMUNISTS MAY BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE SOON. ENDERS CLAIMS COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE 8,000 KILLED OR WOUNDED OUT OF 24,000-MAN FORCE; ADVANCES AS REASONS FOR AMERICAN OPTIMISM FACTS THAT FANK LEARNED TO USE US WEAPONS AND BETTER GOVT. UNDER LONG BORET WITH LESS POLITICAL DISSENSION INTERNALLY, AND GOVT. IS WINNING RECRUITMENT DRIVE - GETTING 20,000 NEW MEN THIS YEAR.

KOREA

35. S-N'S BRADSHER (APRIL 8) IN HK SAYS HOPES FOR END TO HOSTILE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN S AND NK, WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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BLOOMED TWO YEARS AGO WITH BEGINNING OF TALKS ON ESTABLISHING NORMAL CONTACTS, NOW "THOROUGHLY BLIGHTED." OBSERVES THAT N-S RELATIONS HAVE SETTLED INTO OLD COLD WAR SITUATION, THAT STALEMATE IN UNITY TALKS IS RESULT OF NEITHER SIDE'S SEEING MUCH POSSIBLE BENEFIT TO ITSELF. FORESEES NO SIGNIFICANT BREAK IN DEADLOCK AS LONG AS KIM IL-SUNG AND PARK REGIMES REMAIN IN POWER.

JAPAN

36. CSM'S POND IN TOKYO ANTICIPATES SURFACING OF EDUCATIONAL ISSUES IN POLITICAL CONTENTION BETWEEN LEFTISTS AND LIBERALS (MOST VOCALLY REPRESENTED BY NIKKYOSO, JAPAN TEACHERS UNION), LEADERSHIP OF WHICH

IS ASSOCIATED WITH JSP - AND RIGHTISTS AND CONSERVATIVES, REPRESENTED BY SOME LDP DIET MEMBERS. FORMER BLAME PREWAR EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR INSTILLING EMPEROR WORSHIP, MILITARISM, AND FANATIC OBEDIENCE IN JAPANESE THEN; LATTER BLAME VIOLENT STUDENT RADICALISM ON MARXIST-INCLINED NIKKYOSO, AND MOURN LOSS OF OLD TEACHING OF MORALITY. EDUCATION IS PET THEME OF TANAKA, WHO, ACQUAINTANCES SAY, BECOMES ANIMATED AS SOON AS HE

STARTS DISCOURSING ON ILLS OF MODERN SCHOOLING.
AND BEYOND HIS PERSONAL INTEREST, TANAKA REPORTEDLY
BELIEVES EDUCATIONAL ISSUE WOULD HELP LDP POLITICALLY
IN THIS SUMMER'S UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, ATTRIBUTING
LDP SUCCESS IN 1969 ELECTION TO ITS TOUGHNESS TOWARD
DEMONSTRATING STUDENTS. THUS IN MID-MARCH, TANAKA
BURST UPON DIET WITH HIS IDEA TO MAKE FLAG-RAISING
AND SINGING OF NATIONAL ANTHEM IN SCHOOLS COMPULSORY
ON NATIONAL DAYS, AND CALLED FOR TEACHING OF ETHICS
IN SCHOOLS. TOUGHER NEW UNIVERSITY-CONTROL LAW IS
CURRENTLY BEING FOUGHT OVER IN DIET. LDP THINKS
IT CANNOT MUSTER THE VOTES FOR ITS PASSAGE AND WILL
TRY INSTEAD TO EXTEND "TEMPORARY" 1970 LAW THAT IS
DUE TO EXPIRE AUGUST.

THAILAND

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37. LAT'S FOISIE, AGAIN FROM NAKHON PHANOM, REPORTS
US MILITARY HAS "ACCIDENTALLY REVEALED ONE OF ITS
POST-CEASE-FIRE CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES IN INDOCHINA"
WHILE NEWSMEN WERE VISITING NKP WHEN HELICOPTER,
WITH RECOVERED PILOTLESS MIDGET PLANE BENEATH IT,
LANDED ON FIELD. MILITARY SPOKESMAN "COULD NOT DENY
THE VISUAL EVIDENCE. PILOTLESS AIRCRAFT KNOWN AS
'DRONES' ARE LAUNCHED TO FLY OVER NVN ON PHOTOGRAPHIC
MISSIONS." SAYS NEWSMEN WERE ALLOWED INTO NKP ONLY
AFTER INVOKING PROVISION OF REVISED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
ACT OF LAST DEC. THAT PROVIDES FOR WITHDRAWAL OF
US AID FROM NATION HAVING US MILITARY BASES THAT
DOES NOT OFFER REGULAR ACCESS TO NONSECRET AREAS
ON THOSE BASES TO BONA FIDE US CORRESPONDENTS. FINDS
NKP HAS N JETS, ONLY PROPDRIVEN CRAFT -- PLANES
"MOST SUITABLE FOR CLANDESTINE WORK." THERE ALSO
ARE OLD C-47 TRANSPORTS THAT PERFORM "ALL SORTS OF
MISSIONS FOR SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS AND MANY PRIVATE
COMPANIES" IN SEA. GEN. O'K

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